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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Evaluation of aid coordination in least developed countries

Note by the Administrator

1. The Governing Council, in paragraph 6 of its decision 90/51 of 22 June 1990, requested the Administrator "to undertake, through the Central Evaluation Office, an evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Development Programme to strengthening the capacity of least developed countries to coordinate their external assistance".

2. The terms of reference took into account the background material and the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990.

3. The nine countries visited by the team of four consultants were: Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Niger, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal, Western Samoa and Yemen.

4. The evaluation began in November 1990 with field visits by the consultants. In addition, the following donor countries were consulted after the completion of the field visits: Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The following organizations were contacted by the evaluation team: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The consultants also interviewed UNDP staff. A comprehensive questionnaire was transmitted to all UNDP offices in least developed countries (41 countries) and 34 replies were received at the time the report was prepared.

5. The evaluation team benefited from the outputs of other recent evaluations undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), such as those of national technical cooperation assessments and programmes (NaTCAPs), the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Programme, the Special Action Programme for Administration and Development (SAPAM) and the Management Development Programme (MDP).

6. The evaluation report was distributed to the members of the Governing Council at the end of April 1991. The preliminary comments of UNDP on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation exercise will be presented orally to the Standing Committee for Programme Matters in May 1991.